# The Mexican

**Short story**

**Jack London**

## About the author:

Jack London is an influential American aithor who wrote several adventure novels and stories. His first book was *The Son of the Wolf: Tales of the Far North*. London wrote nearby 50 books including *The Call of the Wild, White Fang, The Sea Wolf* and the like.

## About the story:

This is a story that explores themes of sacrifice, revolution, and personal determination. It tells the story of a boxer, Felipe Rivera who works for the revolutionary cause. To rpve his dedication, he enters a boxing match and secures funds for the revolution. The story us about the power of resilience.

## Summary:

The story revolves around Juan Fernandez, whose life changes forever when his father, a Mexican printer, publishes articles supporting striking workers in Río Blanco, Veracruz. The workers are locked out, and federal troops attack, killing many, including Juan's parents. Juan escapes by climbing over the bodies and flees to El Paso, Texas.

In El Paso, Juan joins the Junta Revolucionaria Mexicana, adopting the name Felipe Rivera. Despite initial suspicions, Rivera proves himself by reestablishing connections between Los Angeles revolutionaries and Baja California. He even assassinates a federal general, exceeding his orders.

Rivera's colleagues notice his frequent disappearances, only to return with funds and injuries. Unbeknownst to them, Rivera has started boxing, initially as a sparring partner and later competing in bouts. When the Junta needs $5,000 for guns, Rivera offers to get the funds within three weeks.

Rivera visits boxing promoter Michael Kelly and offers to replace an injured fighter in a match against Danny Ward. Rivera insists on a winner-take-all contract, knowing the prize money will cover the cost of the guns. Despite the crowd's dislike and the referee's bias, Rivera holds his own against Ward, fueled by visions of avenging his parents' deaths. He knocks Ward out in the seventeenth round, winning the money needed to keep the revolution going.

## Paragraphs:

## 1. Examine the character of Felipe Rivera.

Ans: Felipe Rivera is the main character in Jack London's short story "The Mexican." Felipe, also known as Juan Fernandez, is a young man driven by a desire for revenge and justice. His parents were killed in a massacre in Mexico, and he escaped by climbing over their bodies. Felipe is brave, determined, and willing to take risks. He joins the Mexican revolution and becomes a key player in the fight against the government. Felipe is also a skilled boxer, using his talents to earn money for the revolution. He's a bit of a loner, but he's fiercely loyal to the cause and will stop at nothing to achieve his goals. Despite his tough exterior, Felipe has a deep emotional scar from the loss of his parents. His desire for revenge drives him, but it also makes him vulnerable.

## 2. How does boxing serve as a metaphor for Felipe's personal and ideological struggles?

Ans: Boxing is more than just a sport for Felipe. It represents his personal and ideological struggles. Just like in boxing, Felipe faces tough opponents in life - his past, his emotions, and the oppressive government. He uses boxing as a way to cope with his emotions and find strength. Through boxing, Felipe gains control and power over his life. He transforms from a vulnerable young man to a confident and focused individual. This transformation is mirrored in his growth as a revolutionary, as he finds purpose and direction in the fight for justice. Boxing requires Felipe to be strong, resilient, and persevering - qualities that also help him handle the challenges of being a revolutionary.

## 3. How did Rivera fight the foul play and hostile audience in the ring?

Ans: Felipe Rivera's experience in the ring was marked by hostility from the audience and foul play from his opponent, Danny Ward. Despite the crowd's dislike and the referee's bias,

Rivera persevered, fueled by his desire for revenge against those who wronged him. Rivera's strategy involved using his boxing skills to withstand Ward's attacks and wait for an opportunity to strike back. He also drew strength from his past experiences, particularly the loss of his parents, which gave him the resilience to keep fighting. As the match progressed, Rivera's determination and skill paid off, and he eventually knocked out Ward in the seventeenth round, winning the prize money needed to support the Mexican revolution. Through his victory, Rivera demonstrated his ability to overcome adversity and stay focused on his goals, both in and out of the ring.

## Essays

1. Jack London portrays Felipe Rivera as a symbol of sacrifice and determination in "The Mexican". Discuss. (□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□. □□□□□□□□□□□□)

2. Analyse the role of boxing match as a turning point in "The Mexican", where Felipe Rivera's personal struggles converge with the larger revolutionary cause. (□□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□ □□□ □□□□ □□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□□□)